

ABSTRACT

[0046] A default shape representation can be used to transform data between formats having different shapes. The default shape representation can be made using a language with which a user is already familiar, such as XML. For example, a user may have XML data that the user wishes to use with a set of Java classes having a different shape. A user can simply apply an XML query language, such as XQuery, to translate the XML shape into the corresponding XML shape representation, and a query engine can take care of transforming the data to Java. A runtime component can then generate a Java object having that second shape. This allows a user to have and utilize a Java data structure using an XML language. Once users learn how to write a data transformation using XQuery, that user can use XQuery to transform XML to any other format, including another XML format.

[0047] This description is not intended to be a complete description of, or limit the scope of, the invention. Other features, aspects, and objects of the invention can be obtained from a review of the specification, the figures, and the claims.